



LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

## **The Technology Assessment for Air Quality Management Act of 2023**

*Led by Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.) and Jennifer McClellan (D-Va.), and Senator Markey (D-Mass.)*

### **The Threat of Air Pollution in the United States**

Access to clean air and a healthy environment should be a universal human right, yet nearly 36% of Americans live in areas with unhealthy levels of air pollution. Notably, Black, Brown, and indigenous communities as well as low-income communities are disproportionately exposed to and overburdened by pollution, causing disproportionate health burdens. The number of people living in places where they experience unhealthy daily spikes of air pollution is increasing and the threat of air pollution caused by wildfires continues to persist around our country. Current methods of air quality monitoring do not capture the dynamics of persistently poor air quality at the local level in environmental justice communities. Newer hyperlocal air quality monitoring technologies have the potential to supplement our assessment of the local impacts of air pollution. Moving forward, it is important to better understand how these air quality sensors should be deployed across spatial scales and integrated to provide the most benefit, and how the data should be interpreted.

### **The Path Forward**

The Technology Assessment for Air Quality Management Act would authorize \$55 million over five years for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to:

- Annually update and expand its online air quality toolbox with best-available monitor technologies, methods, and associated uses of data.
- Connect the toolbox with environmental justice mapping and screening tools.
- Establish a working group consisting of representatives from EPA regional offices, air agencies, environmental justice networks, data science, and public health science to develop templates for integrated monitoring systems.
- Direct the EPA and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct an inventory of the locations and operation statuses of air monitors, existing data infrastructure, high priority areas for monitoring deployment in environmental justice communities, and workforce needs to improve air quality management across scales.



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## Endorsements

**The Technology Assessment for Air Quality Management Act is endorsed by the Environmental Defense Fund, American Lung Association, Clean Air Task Force, Moms Clean Air Force, and Dr. Sacoby Wilson (Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health).**

Cosponsors in the House include Reps. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), and Katherine Clarke (D-Mass.). Cosponsors in the Senate include Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.).